Notice of Allowability    09/724,182		Application No.	Applicant(s)	
## Notice of Allowability    Examiner	Notice of Allowability	09/724 182	SWANN ET AL.	
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address—All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith for previously mailed, a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon potition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.  1. ☑ This communication is responsive to <i>The amendment received 22 May 2001</i> .  2. ☑ The allowed claim(s) islare 1-3,5-11 and 13-14 (now renumbered as 1-12).  3. ☐ The drawings filled on are accepted by the Examiner.  4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. In Application No  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(e)).  **Certified copies not received:  Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.  5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reasons)s why the oath or declaration is deficient.  6. ☑ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  (a) ☑ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☑ to Paper No./Mail Date				
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-68) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.31 and MPEP 1308.  1. ☑ This communication is responsive to <i>The amendment received 22 May 2001</i> .  2. ☑ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3.5-11 and 13-14 (now renumbered as 1-12).  3. ☑ The drawings filed on are accepted by the Examiner.  4. ☑ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) ☑ All b) ☑ Some* c) ☑ None of the:  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * Certified copies not received:  Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONNENT of this application.  THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.  5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.  6. ☑ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  (a) ☑ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached  1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☑ to Paper No./Mail Date g.  (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date		Amir Alavi	2621	_
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	of Biological Material	9.	_•	

Application/Control Number: 09/724,182

Art Unit: 2621

## **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

> The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards a method and apparatus for processing images to produce clusters of related objects for subsequent analysis. The closest prior art, Bobrow et al. (USPN 6,562,077 B2), shows a similar system, in which, a document search system initially segments document images into one or more layout objects, wherein each layout object identifies a structural element in a document such as text blocks, graphics, or halftones, subsequently, the document search system computes a set of attributes for each of the identified layout objects. However, Bobrow et al. fail to address: "for deriving segmentation data for an image from a multi-level digital representation which compares differences in background data to determine the segmentation data and combining the data defining the locations of the objects with the segmentation data, clustering the objects into groups for each segmented region and supplying data relating to the groups for subsequent analysis". These distinct features have been added separately to different independent claims and render them allowable.

Application/Control Number: 09/724,182

Art Unit: 2621

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

## **Contact Information**

- ➤ Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 703-306-5913.
- The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.. 8:00 am thru 6:30pm.lf attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Leo Boudreau can be reached on 703-305-4706.
- ➤ The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from

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either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

> ANDREW W. JOHNS PRIMARY EXAMINER

AA Group Art Unit 2621 22 October 2004